

## May 21, 2010 ELAC Meeting – 2010 Legislative Session Summary

- **Senate Bill 5617:** Clarifies the duties of ELAC to advise DEL on “issues that would build a comprehensive system of quality early learning programs and services for Washington’s children and families by assessing needs and the availability of services, aligning resources, developing plans for data collection and professional development of early childhood educators, and establishing key performance measures.” It also reduces the number of members on ELAC from 25 to 23.
- **House Bill 2867:** Directs DEL, in collaboration with Thrive by Five and ELAC, to develop a birth-to-three plan including recommended appropriation levels by December 1, 2010. DEL is currently using Federal CCDF infant and toddler funds for the planning process and it is expected that this report will be completed through that existing body of work.
- **Senate Bill 6759:** OSPI and DEL are required to convene a work group to develop a comprehensive plan for a voluntary program of early learning with options for having a pre-K program as a part of state basic education or as an entitlement. The work group is composed of DEL, OSPI, Thrive by Five, Office of the Attorney General, two members of ELAC, and other stakeholders with expertise in early learning to be appointed by ELAC. The work group must recommend child and provider eligibility criteria, program standards, performance measures, DEL and OSPI governance responsibilities, ECEAP’s role, funding and timelines for implementation. The recommendations are to be sent to the QEC and ELAC as a progress report in July 2011 and a final report in November 2011. The QEC, after gathering input from ELAC, is to submit a final plan to the Legislature by July 2012.
- **House Bill 2731:** Beginning in the 2013-14 school year through the 2018-19 school year, additional eligible children will be phased in to a voluntary early learning program for three and four year olds, aligned with the phase-in of all-day kindergarten. The first phase shall use the current Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) program standards and eligibility criteria. DEL shall adopt rules for subsequent phases for the following components: minimum program standards; approval of providers; accountability and adherence to program standards; monitoring program quality; assuring coordination between providers and school districts; and providing technical assistance. Beginning in December 2012, DEL and OFM shall annually review the caseload forecasts for the program and provide recommendations for phasing in additional funding to achieve statewide implementation. Once full implementation is completed, any eligible child will be entitled to enroll into the program. DEL remains the lead agency and children eligible for special education services, regardless of income, are added as a specific group eligible for ECEAP.

The Governor vetoed section 1 of this bill for the following reason: *Section 1 indicates the Legislature’s intent regarding the future of early learning in our state. The Legislature is undertaking a study of the optimal approach for implementing a voluntary program for early learning in Senate Bill 6759 which I am signing today. I look forward to future legislation implementing the results of that study. Because the language in this section presupposes the outcome of the study called for in Senate Bill 6759, I am vetoing this section.*

- **Senate Bill 6593:** Transfers the Infant and Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) and staff from the Department of Social and Health Services to DEL effective July 1, 2010, designates DEL as the lead agency for Part C of IDEA, and renames the program *Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)*.
- **House Bill 3141:** Sets a 12-month child care subsidy authorization period for families with children who are enrolled in the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy program and in Head Start, Early Head Start, or ECEAP, unless a change in circumstances necessitates reauthorization sooner than 12 months. DEL, in consultation with DSHS, will report to the Legislature by September 1, 2011, on the impact of the 12-month authorization and recommendations for expanding the application of the 12-month authorization period to additional populations of children receiving WCCC.

The Governor vetoed sections 1, 3 and 4 of the bill with the following message: *Although I have vetoed Sections 1, 3 and 4, I am directing the WorkFirst Subcabinet to examine the best practices to meet the needs of WorkFirst families to obtain employment and achieve family self-sufficiency. The WorkFirst Subcabinet shall provide a report and plan to implement the best practices for WorkFirst families and children that are sustainable.*

- **Senate Bill 6409** (Opportunity Pathways Account):
  - Creates a new education-related account in the state treasury funded by lottery revenues. ECEAP will receive \$40 million in FY 2011 from the Opportunity Pathways Account.
- **House Bill 2617** (Elimination of Certain Boards and Commissions):
  - Section 148: Effective July 13, 2010, the three home visiting sections of the Council for Children and Families (CCF) RCW are recodified as new sections in DEL's RCW.
- **House Bill 6444** (Operating Supplemental Budget 2010):
  - DEL section 614:
    - Subsection 1: For FY 2011, uses \$40 million from the Opportunity Pathways Account to replace state general fund dollars for ECEAP. However, per section 802, if sufficient funds are not generated for the Opportunity Pathways Account, then state general funds will be used to ensure the funding level of ECEAP.
    - Subsection 8: Requires DEL to develop a plan to improve child care licensing. The plan shall outline the processes and specify the resources necessary for improvements such as continuing licenses, child care licensing technology, and weighted child care regulations, including development of risk-based decision making models and inclusive, evidence-based rule making. A report is due to the Legislature by January 15, 2011.
    - Subsection 13: \$500,000 of state general fund for FY 2011 is provided for DEL to contract with Thrive by Five for home visitation programs. Of this amount, \$200,000 is provided for expenditure into the home visiting services account created in Part IX of this act to be used for contracts for home visitation with Thrive by Five.
    - Subsection 14: Authorizes DEL to increase child care center licensure fees by fifty-two dollars for the first twelve children and an additional four dollars per additional child in FY 2011 for costs to DEL for the licensure activity, including costs of necessary inspection.